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THE
ARTICLES
OF THE
Birmingham Loyal
ASSOCIATION.

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MDCCXCVIII.

THE

ARTICLES

OF THE



ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK

PRINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION

1880

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ARTICLES, &c.

WE, the Members composing this Association, for the purpose of strengthening the hands of Government, the security of private property, and the preservation of good order in this town and parish, at the requisition of the civil power, commanded by officers, elected by ourselves, and approved and commissioned by his Majesty, do hereby associate, unite, and by the ties of honour, declare ourselves to be one inseparable corps, to be called the *Birmingham Loyal Association*; and we do promise and engage to obey the orders of our officers, in the attendance, discipline, and duties of the corps, and to submit to the rules, regulations, and forms of trial, and censures that shall be made and appointed by the Association for its good order and government, so long as we shall continue Members of the same.

I. That the dress be as follows, viz. a blue lapelled coat, edged with scarlet, scarlet collar, blue cloth epaulets, with gold lace on the edge, and small gold fringe at bottom, the skirts lined with white cassimere, turned back with scarlet hearts, edged with gold lace, gilt buttons, with the crown and cypher *B. L. A.* beneath it, white dimity or cassimere lapelled waistcoat; white cassimere breeches, plain white cotton stockings, and black cloth half gaiters; black stock, with white necking; cocked hat, bound; black feather, half silk cockade, and gold button and loop; white belts, and gilt plate, with same device as on the button; japanned cartouch box.—The hair to be well powdered, and tied in a queue, with black rosette and forked ends.—The commissioned officers to wear a sword, sash, gorget, black feather, with red top, in the hat, and gold band. The serjeants to wear a sword and sash.—All parades, except when under arms, to be without gaiters, with buckles in the shoes.

II. That each company consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign, three Serjeants, three Corporals, two Drums, and fifty Rank and File, at least, and that the business of this association



tion shall be conducted by a committee, consisting of the field or commanding officer, the adjutant, and serjeant-major (who shall have a permanent seat) and also one commissioned officer and two private gentlemen or serjeants from each company, to be elected quarterly by ballot, the officers to choose their own representatives, and the privates or serjeants to be chosen by the private gentlemen; the senior officer to preside for the day; in the absence of the officers, the senior private gentleman to take the chair; to meet once a week, five of whom shall be competent to act, and that the quarter-master attend as secretary to the same. Any gentleman, not of the committee, having any business to propose relative to the corps, shall give it in writing to one of the committee, to be by him laid before them then, or at its next meeting.

III. That any officer or private gentleman accepting the office of secretary, shall not have a vote on the committee.

IV. A writ of return shall be produced by each private gentleman, on first taking his seat as a representative in the committee, as follows, viz.

Birmingham Loyal Association.

The private gentlemen of the company, have elected _____ as one of the committee to conduct the business of the corps.

Signed _____

, Captain.

V. That any gentleman desirous of becoming a member of this corps, shall be proposed to the committee by one of its members (depositing one guinea towards his arms and accoutrements) and seconded by any member of the corps, each declaring on his honour that he knows, or has heard, and believes, that the person proposed is a respectable inhabitant, perfectly qualified as to character, and without any bodily defect; a minute of which shall be made and read at the head of each company on parade, previous to the ballot, which shall take place the next committee meeting; each person to be admitted by ballot only, and three-fourths of the votes to be in his favour to entitle him to admission.

mission. Every member of the corps to be at liberty to attend and to vote. Every night of meeting to be open for proposing members, and that the secretary shall give notice in writing to the new member, of his admission, with a printed copy of the rules of the Association; and that any new law passed at a general meeting, shall be made known to each member of the corps by circular letter.

VI. That any gentleman who shall have been rejected on the ballot, shall have his deposit money returned, but cannot be proposed again.

VII. That every gentleman admitted a member of this corps, shall, within fourteen days, take the oath prescribed for this Association, and appear on parade in compleat uniform, armed and accoutred, or shall forfeit his deposit money, and be no longer considered a member of this corps, without sufficient excuse being made to the regimental committee.

VIII. That no gentleman be permitted to fall into the ranks on parade day, unless in uniform.

IX. That any gentleman belonging to this corps, who shall leave, or procure himself to be

proposed and ballotted for in any other corps, without having first sent in his resignation in writing, and delivered up his arms and accoutrements on receiving two guineas, to the Captain of the company to which he belongs, shall be considered to have acted in a manner unbecoming a gentleman, and that his name, with his offence, and this resolution, shall be read at the head of every company, on the next following general parade day.

X. That the following fines be levied for the offences annexed thereto :

	s.	d.
For being absent at the first roll-call	0	6
For being absent the whole time of parade, or relieving guard, without leave	1	0
For talking, laughing, or inattention, while under arms, for each offence	1	0
For appearing on parade not properly ap- pointed, or in an unsoldier-like manner	1	0
For quitting the ranks without leave	1	0
For discharging arms in the field, without orders from the officer of the company, or in the streets after the corps has been dismissed	5	0
For		

For neglecting to attend the regimental committee, when elected upon the same, unless a sufficient excuse be made in writing - - - - - I 0

That the officer on guard for the week not attending drill - - - - - I 0

Any gentleman being in health, and in town, neglecting to attend parade for one month, shall after that time pay treble the fine for non-attendance. Commissioned officers to be fined double on all occasions, except that of attending the drill.

XI. That the serjeants of each company, under the penalty of two shillings, shall at the appointed times of parade call the roll, and collect the fines which may have been incurred, and shall within twenty-four hours after the corps has been dismissed, make an exact return of the company, together with the fines received, to the captain, to go to the stock purse of the town's committee.

XII. That any gentleman belonging to this corps, who shall appear on parade with any alteration in the regimental uniform, shall be fined for each offence the sum of half a guinea.

XIII. That

XIII. That any gentleman belonging to this corps, who shall appear among the spectators on parade or field days, without joining the corps, shall pay treble the fine inflicted on those absent without leave.

XIV. That any member of this corps refusing to pay the fines he may have incurred, shall be rendered incapable of appearing in the ranks until he has discharged the same, and shall also be subject to such fines he may incur during his non-attendance, unless the committee shall be fully satisfied with the apology or excuse made by him.

XV. That no excuse, except sickness, leave of absence granted by the captain of the company, or legal hindrance (the legality of which the said captain shall enquire into, and if not to his satisfaction, report it to the committee) be sufficient to remit any fine that may have been incurred for not appearing on parade.

XVI. That from the hour mentioned in the summons for parade, a quarter of an hour be allowed for the commanding officer's attendance, and then, in case of his absence, the corps shall
march

march under the command of the senior officer on parade.

XVII. That should any commissioned, non-commissioned officer, or private gentleman, be charged with any misdemeanor, or ungentlemanlike behaviour, or disobedience to his superiors' commands, such officer or private gentleman shall be subject to a trial by a Court of Honour, to be composed of five commissioned officers and eight private gentlemen, chosen by lot (double the number to be ballotted for) and the first on the list to form the court, unless objected to; the time and place of trial to be appointed by the commanding officer, within one month after a requisition made in writing, stating the complaint, and signed by the complainant; each party to have the liberty of challenging two officers and four private gentlemen. And the determination by a majority of the said court shall be conclusive. Any officer or private gentleman chosen by lot on a Court of Honour, shall be fined for non-attendance one guinea.

XVIII.

XVIII. That any officer or private gentleman who shall think himself aggrieved, may apply to the commanding officer for a Court of Honour, which must be granted on the said application.

XIX. That each company shall elect from among themselves, one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three serjeants, and three corporals, by ballot.

XX. That whenever a vacancy shall happen in the corps, by the death, resignation, or otherwise, of any of the commissioned officers, the company in which such vacancy shall happen, shall elect from among themselves a member to be recommended to his Majesty to succeed thereto; and in case the next officer in succession should be chosen, the said company shall elect from among themselves a member to succeed him.

XXI. That the commanding officer shall be empowered, at his pleasure, to choose an orderly serjeant from one of the serjeants of the corps

corps for the day, and also to appoint a permanent serjeant major.

XXII. That any officer who shall neglect to call for a Court of Honour upon any gentleman in his company behaving disobediently, or in an unfoldier-like manner, shall himself be subjected to a Court of Honour for encouraging a spirit of insubordination in the corps.

XXIII. That a treasurer be appointed, who shall lay the accounts before the members of this association, at a general meeting on the second Monday in June in each year, timely notice of which shall be given by the secretary; and that no payments shall be made by the treasurer, but by order of the regimental committee.

XXIV. That the committee for the time being shall not have power to alter any of the rules and regulations of this association without calling a general meeting, nor shall any new law be adopted, but by a majority of three fourths of the members present.

RULES

RULES,

FOR THE

Regulation of the Additional Companies.

I. THAT each company shall consist of fifty men of good character, who shall on the evening of their proposal attend the regimental committee, and respectively produce a recommendation, in writing, from two housekeepers of respectability, or from two members of the corps, who shall have found their own appointments, vouching for his loyalty and general good conduct.

II. That the election shall take place on the second committee night after proposal; and if any doubt shall arise in the minds of the committee, as to the respectability of the character of
the

the person proposed, one of the corps shall be appointed by the committee to make the necessary enquiries, and report the same to them before the ballot takes place.

III. The commissioned officers for the additional companies, shall be appointed by and from the members who shall have found their own appointments.

IV. A general meeting of the corps shall be called for the express purpose of electing their officers, as soon as possible after the regulations for the different companies are approved by the corps; and that previous to such election, a printed list of the corps shall be sent to each member.

V. Each person entering into the additional companies, shall be found in arms and accoutrements; a hat, regimental coat, a stock, and black cloth half gaiters. The cloathing found by subscription, shall be worn only on the days affixed by the regimental committee, or commanding officer, under the forfeiture of two shillings and sixpence per day.

VI. That

VI. That each person upon receiving his arms, accoutrements, &c. shall give an acknowledgment for the same, with an undertaking to deliver them up, in good condition, upon his leaving the corps, under the penalty of five guineas. And that no person shall be permitted to withdraw himself, without giving three months notice, in writing, of his intention, to the regimental committee, unless he can offer a sufficient cause for his resignation, to be judged of by the committee.

VII. That the companies so to be formed, be subject to the rules and regulations of this corps, together with the six preceding articles.



FINIS.